INTRODUCTION

On this feast the Church honours Apostle Peter, brother of Apostle Andrew, who was born in Bethsaida of Galilee and followed the Lord from the beginning. Apostle Peter denied the Lord on the night of His Passion, but repented at the rooster’s crow and was again received by the Lord after the Resurrection with the words “Peter, loveth thou me?” He became an Apostle and witness and martyr of the Lord, preaching Him and His mission in places of Asia, Pontus, Cilicia and elsewhere.

The Church honours likewise Apostle Paul, as a former persecutor of the Church who was called by the Lord through a vision on his way to Damascus, and accepted the call, becoming a chosen vessel and preached Christ more than all other Apostles, in the Mediterranean, and as far as Rome, which is why he was distinguished as the Apostle of the nations.

This feast marks the end of the Apostles’ Fast, which runs from the Monday after the Sunday of All Saints to the feast of the Holy Apostles, Peter & Paul. This day after this feast is dedicated to the Synaxis of the Holy Twelve Apostles all together.

THE APOSTLES

The divinely-blessed Peter was from Bethsaida of Galilee. He was the son of Jonas and the brother of Andrew the First-called. He was a fisherman by trade, unlearned and poor, and was called Simon; later he was renamed Peter by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, Who looked at him and said, “Thou art Simon the son of Jonas; thou shalt be

Continued on pg. 5...
Diakonia is the monthly newsletter of
St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
4970 Mackinaw Road, Saginaw, MI 48603
Phone: 989-793-8822 | Fax: 989-793-8896
Email: stdemetriosmi@gmail.com
Website: http://www.stdemetrios.mi.goarch.org

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church is a parish under the spiritual and ecclesiastical shepherding of His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

The Mission of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church is to proclaim the Gospel of Salvation through the Orthodox Christian Faith for the glory of our Triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We are a community of believers who journey towards our Lord Jesus Christ and one another through our worship, fellowship, spiritual growth, witness, and service. We invite all people to join us on this journey toward the Kingdom of Heaven.

"Diakonia" is published on the first of each month. The deadline for submissions to this newsletter is the 20th of the prior month.

Published by
St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, Saginaw, MI

Parish Ministry Team
AHEPA President: Evan Houpis
Altar Boy Advisors: Evan Houpis, Dr. Andy Bazakis
Bookstore: Edward Economous
Bylaws: Kosta Povich Porchia
Choir: Dr. Andrew Bazakis, Dr. John Blebea, Daniel Niederer, Andreas Skoutelas
Custodian: Mark Legner
Daughters of Penelope President: Vicki Clifford
Festival Chair: Dr. David Nichols
Flower Ministry: Eleni Morris
Hellenic Center: Megan Rodriguez
Outreach Coordinator: Andrea Ferris
Special Parish Events: Joni Porchia
Philoptochos President: Joni Porchia
Stewardship Chair: **vacant**
Secretary: Gabby Economous
Sunday School Director: Caitlin Niederer
Youth Protection Administrator: Elaine Makas

Visit our website:
www.stdemetrios.mi.goarch.org
for our weekly bulletins, newsletter archives, lives of the saints and daily scripture readings, news from our community, and much more!

His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of the Holy Metropolis of Detroit
The Reverend Father Timothy Cook, Priest
Cell: 517-515-9565
Email: frtimothycook@gmail.com

Parish Council
President: Dr. Judy Blebea
Vice President: Taylor Blohm
Treasurer: Corey Ferris
Secretary: Art Tselepis
Members: Vicki Clifford, Dr. Constantine Constantinou, Andrea Ferris, Dr. David Nichols, Elan Nichols, Joni Porchia, Kosta Povich, Megan Rodriguez.

Vigil Candles May

05/02 - For Michael Thomas - By Risty Kalivas
- For families & relatives, peace, and our country.
  By Jonathan Rishmawi
- For Rania Hanania - families & relatives.
  By Ryan Hanania
- For families & relatives - By Athanasia Economou
- For families & relatives, peace in family.
  By Helen Blebea
- For families & relatives - By Eleni Morris.
- For Lou Economou - Memory Eternal.
  By Soula Economou

05/09 - For Theodore - Memory Eternal.
  By Viki Labrou-Betts
- For Theodore - Memory Eternal.
  By Sophia Bernhart

05/16 - For Unborn Twins - Families & Relatives.
  By Mariam Haddad
- For Politimi (Tena) Tarachas - Memory Eternal.
  By Connie Shoker

05/23 - For Gust Kouvelas - Memory Eternal.
  By Elaine Kimmerly.
- For Soula Economou - Better Health.
  By Betty-Lou Gustafson
- For Family/Relatives/Peace in our Country.
  By Judy Blebea

Please note: we have combined what had been "Devotional Lights" & "Glass Candles," using the red/white vigil candles for both. Please continue to use the Devotional Light envelopes to send prayer requests to the priest.
From Fr. Timothy

LOOKING BACK & MOVING FORWARD

For the last few months, the Strategic Planning Team has been working on a new Strategic Plan for our parish community. A Strategic Plan is, of course, all about looking ahead to the future. As we prepared for this process, we reflected on our past as a parish to see what we do well and what we do badly – our successes and failures, our strengths and weaknesses – so that we could see where we need to go. I encourage all of you to participate in this process as much as possible as we move forward to the eventual release and implementation of our new strategic plan, but I also urge you to work through this reflective process yourselves, personally and as a family.

As we say goodbye to Pascha and the school year, this is a good time to look back on the last year and reflect on what went well, what went badly, our successes and failures, and give thanks for all the blessings both “seen and unseen.” Soon we will be planning for a new school year, preparing to shift yet again into another cycle of Fall, Winter, and Spring and everything that comes with it. It will be easier for us to see where we need to go, and how we can get there, if we first look back at where we have been – as a parish, as a family, and personally.

How can we adapt the reflective process that we use in Strategic Planning to our personal lives?

First, set aside some time for reflection. Unscheduled summer days are excellent times to sit quietly in prayer and reflect on what has come before. All too often our lives are spent frantically rushing from one thing to another, with no time to be still and listen for God. Set aside regular time this summer for prayer and reflection and take some time to look backwards at this past year. I find that mornings and evenings work best for this – turn off the screens and sit down in a quiet place for a specific amount of time.

Second, as we reflect on seasons past, give thanks! Even when times are hard, God fills our lives with blessings – great and small – which may be obvious to us in the moment or may only be perceived with the benefit of hindsight. As we take time to look backwards in preparation for moving forward, take notice of God’s blessings and give thanks for them. This can become a daily practice, looking back on the day every evening before sleep and giving thanks for all blessings, both seen and unseen.

Finally, as we reflect on these past seasons, be willing to practice humility. Fr. Stephen Freeman writes that “humility can be defined as our willingness to bear the truth of ourselves as God sees us.” Take some time to practice humility, to bear this truth and reflect not only on the good things of this year, but also on the struggles, the hardships, and the pain. This can be hard, but it is often in our moments of struggle that we have the greatest potential for repentance and growth. Don’t just sweep the difficult things under the rug, but take some time to work through them, to reflect on what we have learned from them, and how we can grow in communion with God and our neighbor through them. Don’t be afraid to ask for help, either. This is a process that works better in cooperation with a spiritual father or some kind of counselor.

St. Paul reminds us in his letter to the Romans that “in everything God works for good with those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose.” This doesn’t mean that everything that happens in the world is good, but it does mean that all things, even terrible things, can be turned to good if we turn to God and work with Him for His purpose. Even the greatest tragedies of our lives can be turned to blessings by God if we meet them in a spirit of faith and humility. And if we don’t, we have the opportunity to learn from them in hindsight so we can try again.

I wish you all a blessed summer – may God grant us all the humility and faith to see where we have been, so we can follow Him wherever He may call us.
called Cephas (which is by interpretation, Peter)" (John 1:42).

On being raised by the Lord to the dignity of an Apostle and becoming inseparable from Him as His zealous disciple, he followed Him from the beginning of His preaching of salvation up until the very Passion, when, in the court of Caiphas the high priest, he denied Him thrice because of his fear of the Jews and of the danger at hand. But again, after many bitter tears, he received complete forgiveness of his transgression.

After the Resurrection of Christ and the descent of the Holy Spirit, he preached in Judea, Antioch, and certain parts of Asia, and finally came to Rome, where he was crucified upside down by Nero, and thus he ascended to the eternal habitations about the year 66 or 68, leaving two Catholic (General) Epistles to the Church of Christ.

Paul, the chosen vessel of Christ, the glory of the Church, the Apostle of the Nations and teacher of the whole world, was a Jew by race, of the tribe of Benjamin, having Tarsus as his homeland. He was a Roman citizen, fluent in the Greek language, an expert in knowledge of the Law, a Pharisee, born of a Pharisee, and a disciple of Gamaliel, a Pharisee and notable teacher of the Law in Jerusalem. For this cause, from the beginning, Paul was a most fervent zealot for the traditions of the Jews and a great persecutor of the Church of Christ; at that time, his name was Saul (Acts 22:3-4).

In his great passion of rage and fury against the disciples of the Lord, he went to Damascus bearing letters of introduction from the high priest. His intention was to bring the disciples of Christ back to Jerusalem in bonds. As he was approaching Damascus, about midday there suddenly shone upon him a light from Heaven. Falling on the earth, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" And he asked, "Who art Thou, Lord?" And the Lord said, "I am Jesus Whom thou persecutest; it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." And that heavenly voice and brilliance made him tremble, and he was blinded for a time. He was led by the hand into the city, and on account of a divine revelation to the Apostle Ananias (see Oct. 1), he was baptized by him, and both his bodily and spiritual eyes were opened to the knowledge of the Sun of Righteousness.

And straightway- O wondrous transformation! - beyond all expectation, he spoke with boldness in the synagogues, proclaiming that "Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 9:1-21). As for his zeal in preaching the Gospel after these things had come to pass, as for his unabating labors and afflictions of diverse kinds, the wounds, the prisons, the bonds, the beatings, the stonings, the shipwrecks, the journeys, the perils on land, on sea, in cities, in wildernesses, the continual vigils, the daily fasting, the hunger, the thirst, the nakedness, and all those other things that he endured for the Name of Christ, and which he underwent before nations and kings and the Israelites, and above all, his care for all the churches, his fiery longing for the salvation of all, whereby he became all things to all men, that he might save them all if possible, and because of which, with his heart aflame, he continuously traveled throughout all parts, visiting them all, and like a bird of heaven flying from Asia and Europe, the West and East, neither staying nor abiding in any one place - all these things are related incident by incident in the Book of the Acts, and as he himself tells them in his Epistles.

His Epistles, being fourteen in number, are explained in 250 homilies by Saint John Chrysostom and make manifest the loftiness of his thoughts, the abundance of the revelations made to him, the wisdom given to him from God, wherewith he brings together in a wondrous manner the Old with the New Testaments, and expounds the mysteries thereof which had been concealed under types; he confirms the doctrines of the Faith, expounds the ethical teaching of the Gospel, and demonstrates with exactness the duties incumbent upon every rank, age, and order of man. In all these things his teaching proved to be a spiritual trumpet, and his speech was seen to be more radiant than the sun, and by these means he clearly sounded forth the word of truth and illumined the ends of the world. Having completed the work of his ministry, he likewise ended his life in martyrdom when he was beheaded in Rome during the reign of Nero, at the same time, some say, when Peter was crucified.
The Orthodox Church has a beautiful presentation of the importance and prominence of the Apostles Peter and Paul with the icon that shows both Apostles standing together holding an image of the Church.

Both Apostles, being chosen by our Lord, were instrumental in the establishment and growth of the early Church through their boldness, spiritual strength, and wisdom. Thus they are recognized as "pillars" of the Church, having offered all even unto death for the sake of the Gospel of Christ.

In the icon, the Apostle Paul, the great missionary of the early Church, is holding a Gospel book, while the Apostle Peter offers a blessing with his right hand. At the top of the icon is the is a semicircle, representing the divine realm. Rays extend in the semicircle representing the blessings and presence of God upon His two chosen heralds of the True Faith.

**ORTHODOX CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY APOSTLES**

The Feast and commemoration of the Apostles Peter and Paul is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom which is conducted on the morning of the feast and preceded by a Matins (Orthros) service. A Great Vespers is conducted on the evening before the day of the Feast. Prior to this day, the Orthodox Church observes the Apostles' Fast, a period of fasting that begins on the Monday after the Sunday of All Saints. This Sunday is always one week after the Sunday of Pentecost, so the length of the Apostles’ Fast varies from year to year depending on the date of Pascha.

The Feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul is followed on June 30th by the Feast of the Synaxis of the Holy Twelve Apostles.

**HYMNS OF THE CHIEFS OF THE APOSTLES**

**Dismissal Hymn (Fourth Mode)**

Preeminent Apostles and teachers of the universe, intercede with the Master of all, to grant peace to the whole world, and great mercy to our souls.

**Kontakion (Second Mode)**

You have taken to yourself, O Lord, the pinnacles of Your Disciples, those unerring theologians and preachers, to enjoy Your blessings and repose. For You accepted their labors and their death as being higher than any whole-burnt offering, for only You know what is in the heart.

**Exaposteilarion (Second Mode)**


**HYMNS OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES**

**Dismissal Hymn (Third Mode)**

O holy Apostles, make intercession to our merciful God, that He grant our souls forgiveness of offenses.

*For more saints’ lives, feasts, and information about the Orthodox liturgical calendar, visit goarch.org/chapel/calendar.*
St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
2021 Stewardship Commitment Form

“When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, He had compassion on them and healed their sick.” - Matthew 14:14

THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE

Please bring this form to the Church or mail it to the Church Office at 4970 Mackinaw Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603

Name: 

Street Address: City: State: Zip Code: 

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<th>Individual or Family</th>
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In gratitude for God’s blessings, I/we pledge to contribute for Christ’s work at St. Demetrios Church for 2021. $________annually

Please indicate areas of expertise or interest where you would like to serve:
(Individuals should provide a check mark and families provide "H" for husband, "W" for wife and "C" for children)

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I/we would like to receive notifications from St. Demetrios by: ___ email ___ paper mail

You can also submit your stewardship card and your contributions online at www.stdemetrios.mi.goarch.org/stewardship

CONFIDENTIAL: For Authorized Parish Personnel Only
Stewardship Report - End of May, 2021

Our 2021 Stewardship goal is $170,000. As of the end of May we have received pledges reflecting 90% of that goal.

Thank you to the following faithful stewards who have submitted their pledge cards for 2021. Please join them in their support of our St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church and submit your pledge card today!

(Please submit any corrections to the Church office).

Total Pledges: $152,795.00
Stewards pledged: 102

Offerings Received: $101,063.14
Offerings Unfulfilled: $61,992.86
Largest pledge: $20,000.00
Median pledge: $1,000.00

Rev. Fr. Timothy & Pr. Catherine Cook
Rev. Fr. Peter & Pr. Peggy Bistolarides
Ahejew Sr., Petro & Sandra
Ahejew, Augusta
Ahejew, Georgia
Ahejew, Petro & Kristina Lyn
Anagnost, Christ & Olga
Andros, John & Kathi
Barris, Thomas & Angela
Bernhart, Johnathan
Bernhart, Sophia
Billingsley, Thomas & Joan
Blebea, John & Judy
Blohm, Jeremy & Taylor
Bone, Kevin & Bessey
Bristley, Mark & Anastasia
Brown, Tula
Bujoives, Perry
Caris, Dorothy
Evans, William & Alexia
Ferris, Corey & Andrea
Gavalas, Kitty
Govenlock, Kimberly & Quincy
Gustafson, Betty
Haddad, Sandy & Duke, Brady
Houpis, Evan & Alexia
Howard, Bambi
Hubbell, Linda & Doug
Ioannidis, Matina
Kalivas, Risty & Karen
Kallos, George & Alexandra
Karris, Mersina
Katsiouras, Katerina & Athanasios
Kelso, Ron & Connie
Kennedy, Ana
Khoury, Sameer & Areen
Kimmerly, Elaine
Kokas, James & Mary
Kokas, Thomas & Anastasia
Koutras, Anthony & Rula
Koutras, Gas & Mary
Kurtz, Thomas & Athena
Legakis, Nick & Lena
Legner, Mark & Koula
Makas, Elaine
Makrianis, Grace
Malik, Dymitr
Mendyk, Dan & Tena
Metropoulos, Katherine
Mighion, John & Christine
Milionis, Barbara
Morris, Adam Sr. & Eleni
Nemode, Tom & Peggy
Nichols, David & Elan
Ortega, David
Ostler, Dennis & Soula
Paez, Eleftheria
Paron, Jamey
Paron, Kelly
Paron, Marge
Paron, Nicholas & Julie
Patishnock, Tim
Porchia, Eliana
Porchia, Joni & Jose
Porchia, Leonardo
Povich, Douglas & Leta
Povich, Julia
Psetas, Chris & Michelle
Psetas, Christ & Yiota
Rapanos, Elaine
Rapanos, Jason
Rodriguez, Megan & Matt
Rouman, George & Fran
Sahouri, Majed & Rheame
Siradakis, Efthihios & Beverly
Skoutelas, Andy & Voula
Skoutelas, John
Sous, Jacob & Ruha
Sous, Michael & Dawn
Sous, Nicholas
Sous, Rita
Stamas, Jim & Marsha
Stavropoulos, Bill & Linda
Tambouridis, Elaine
Tarachas, Bill & Bo
Tarachas, Electra
Triant, James
Triantafilou, George & Jean
Tsleipis, Art & Nancy Schaab
Ulmer, George & Virginia
Veremis, John
Veremis, Theodore & Georgia
Veremis, Thomas & Irene
Zacharko, Kathleen & James
Zestos, Eva V. & Crawford, Nate
Zubulake, George & Gladys
Zubulake, Jim & Esmini

Donate to FRIENDS of the Metropolis
# Saint Demetrios Calendar of Events • June • 2021

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<td>Justin the Martyr</td>
<td>Nikephoros, Patriarch of Constantinople</td>
<td>Wonderworker Athanasios Martyrs Lucillian &amp; Paula</td>
<td>Metrophanes, Patriarch of Constantinople</td>
<td>Dorotheos, Bishop of Tyre Nikandrus, Gorgias, and Apollon</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Pyrrus the Hieromartyr</td>
<td>Pyrrus the Hieromartyr</td>
<td>Martyrs Lucillian &amp; Paula</td>
<td>Mary &amp; Martha</td>
<td>Acts 15:35-41</td>
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|        |        | 6        | 7         | 8        | 9       | 10       |
|        |        | Sunday of the Blind Man | Holy Martyr Theodotus | Removal of the Relics of St. Theodore the Commander | Leavetaking of Pascha | Martyrs Alexander & Antonina |
|        |        | Hilarion of Dalmatos Mon. | Acts 16:16-34 | Cyril, Patriarch of Alexandria | Cyril, Patriarch of Alexandria | Timothy, Bp. of Prousia |

|        |        | 11      | 12       | 13       | 14      | 15       |
|        |        | Apostle Bartholomew | Onuphrius of Egypt Peter the Athonite | Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council | The Holy Prophet Eliseus | Amos the Prophet Righteous Hieronymos |

|        |        | 16      | 17       | 18       | 19       | 20       |
|        |        | Wonderworker Tycho | Isaurus of Athens & his Companions | Leontios, Hypatios, & Theodoulos the Martyrs | Saturday of Souls Jude the Apostle | Pentecost | Fast Free |

|        |        | 21      | 22       | 23       | 24       | 25       | 26       |
|        |        | Fast Free | Fast Free | Fast Free | Nativity of St. John the Baptist Elizabeth, Mother of the Forerunner | Fast Free | Fast Free |
|        |        | Fast Free | Fast Free | Fast Free | Fast Free | Prokopios the New Martyr | Leavetaking of Pentecost |
|        |        | Eusebius, Bp. of Samosata | Eusebius, Bp. of Samosata | Martyr Agrippina of Rome Aristocles, Demetrius, Athanasius | St. John the Baptist | David the Righteous | Apostles Peter & Paul |

|        |        | 27      | 28       | 29       | 30       |        |
|        |        | All Saints | Apostles Fast Begins | Apostles Peter & Paul | Synaxis of the Twelve Apostles |        |
|        |        | Samson the Hospitable | Relics of Cyrus & John, the Unmercenaries | II Corinthians 11:21-33 | New-Martyr Michael of Athens |        |
|        |        | Orthon (9:00 am) | Orthon (9:00 am) | Orthon (9:00 am) | Orthon (9:00 am) |        |

|        |        | Divine Liturgy (10:00 am) | Divine Liturgy (10:00 am) | Divine Liturgy (10:00 am) | Divine Liturgy (10:00 am) |        |

- Shaded days denote a fast day. ➡️ denotes a Liturgy  ❭ Great Vespers/Compline  ❭ Akathist/Paraklesis  ❭ Presanctified Liturgy  ↪️ fish/wine/oil allowed  🍷 wine/oil allowed
Security Reminder

As we reopen the Hall and prepare for the full resumption of in-person ministries, please be aware that we have re-activated the exterior alarm in the Hellenic Center. This is a separate system from the Church security system, so even if the alarm is deactivated in the Church you will need to deactivate the alarm in the Hall if you enter (even if you enter from the Church side). If you have not been issued an alarm code for both the Church and the Hall, please do not attempt to enter the Hall until the alarm has been deactivated.

We have also changed the locks for the Hall, so any old keys will no longer work for the exterior doors. If you experience any issues or accidentally set off the alarm, please contact Fr. Timothy or Mark Legner.

If you have an old set of keys and no longer require them, please turn them in to the Church office at your earliest convenience.

Education Update

Sunday School

We will be re-evaluating our Sunday School ministry over the summer both as part of our Strategic Planning process and in preparation for resuming in-person ministries in the Fall. Please pray for us as we move back towards our normal rhythm.

Small Groups

The men’s group, led by Fr. Timothy, is now reading through the book “Thinking Orthodox” by Dr. Eugenia Constantinou. The group continues to meet every other Friday at 8pm via Zoom.

Social/Spiritual Ministry Survey

In preparation for resuming ministries in the Fall, and also to gather data for our Strategic Planning Team, we have prepared and sent out a survey to the parish to assess the desire and needs of our community for additional social and educational ministries. If you have not yet filled out and submitted this survey for your family, please do so by going to:

https://forms.gle/6V9HXLKCgvcuM6AaA

Strategic Planning

Following the initial Strategic Planning Retreat in April, the Strategic Planning Team has split into three groups to develop the Wildly Important Goals, the action plan to achieve those goals, and the lead/lag measures and scoreboard by which we will track and publish our progress. That means, "what do we hope to accomplish, how long do we expect it to take, and how are we going to measure our progress and success."

The three teams are developing the goals in the areas of:

1) Stewardship & Liturgical Engagement

This group is setting the goals, scoreboard, and timeline for the stewardship part of the Strategic Plan - time, talent, and treasure, along with the wider challenge of engagement in our parish ministries, especially our liturgical ministries.

2) Adult & Youth Education

This group is setting the goals, scoreboard, and timeline for the education part of the Strategic Plan, divided into the subsets of Adult & Youth Education, and Youth Ministries in general.

3) Welcoming, Outreach, & Evangelism

This group is setting the goals, scoreboard, and timeline for the outreach part of the Strategic Plan, divided into the subministries of welcoming, outreach, and evangelism.

We will finalize the Strategic Plan at our retreat on July 24th, 2020, and roll it out at a parish-wide event in the Fall.

One of the upcoming steps will be to recruit additional parishioners for the implementation teams that will execute the plan in these various areas. If you are interested in joining one of these teams, please reach out to Fr. Timothy or Judy Blebea.

You can track our progress at:
stewardshipcalling.com/st-demetrios-saginaw-mi-strategic-plan/

Please keep our coordinator, Bill Marianes, our Strategic Plan, and our parish in your prayers as we work to complete this important project!
Greek Festival - Summer Drive-Thru

Due to COVID restrictions, the Greek Festival Committee has opted to run a Drive-Thru Gyro Sale instead of the full festival, albeit on the traditional weekend for the Festival rather than later in the summer.

The dates for the Drive-Thru are June 18th & 19th, 2021 - from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm on both days. Even though we are doing a smaller event, we still need help both during the Drive-Thru itself and in the week leading up to the event.

Volunteers may sign up for volunteer positions at www.signupgenius.com (see link below), or by contacting the Festival Chair David Nichols. We need volunteers at all positions, in food prep, sales, orders, runners, and volunteers to manage the traffic flow through the parking lot. In addition, we need help with setup and food packaging in the week leading up to the Drive-Thru. Everyone's help is much needed and appreciated. We look forward to another great event!

- The Saginaw Greek Festival Committee

www.signupgenius.com/go/8050d44aea728abf7-greek2

Metropolis of Detroit COVID-19 Protocols

General Requirements (as of May 20th)

(see website or call office with questions)

St. Demetrios will continue to live-stream all of our services, so anyone who is so desires may continue streaming our services from home.

- Anyone who is currently experiencing any symptoms of illness must stay at home.
- If you are not fully vaccinated, you are to wear a mask. (This does not apply to infants the younger children). Masks are available at the door of the Church.
- Please sign-in as you enter the Church.
- Please maintain a physical distance of at least six feet between family units in both the communion and antidoron lines.
- The faithful should refrain from kissing the icons and other holy objects, showing reverence instead with a bow.
- Coffee Hour and all other in-person ministries may resume under the same guidelines as above, and in accordance with current restaurant regulations.
INTRODUCTION

The Feast of Holy Pentecost is celebrated each year on the fiftieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter) and ten days after the Feast of the Ascension of Christ. The Feast is always celebrated on a Sunday.

The Feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, a feast of the Jewish tradition. It also celebrates the establishment of the Church through the preaching of the Apostles and the baptism of the thousands who on that day believed in the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ. The Feast is also seen as the culmination of the revelation of the Holy Trinity.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The story of Pentecost is found in the book of The Acts of the Apostles. In Chapter two we are told that the Apostles of our Lord were gathered together in one place. Suddenly, a sound came from heaven like a rushing wind, filling the entire house where they were sitting. Then, tongues of fire appeared, and one sat upon each one of Apostles. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as directed by the Spirit (Acts 2:1-4).

This miraculous event occurred on the Jewish Feast of Pentecost, celebrated by the Jews on the fiftieth day after the Passover as the culmination of the Feast of Weeks (Exodus 34:22; Deuteronomy 16:10). The Feast of Weeks began on the third day after the Passover with the presentation of the first harvest sheaves to God, and it concluded on Pentecost with the offering of two loaves of unleavened bread, representing the first products of the harvest (Leviticus 23:17-20; Deuteronomy 16:9-10).

Since the Jewish Feast of Pentecost was a great pilgrimage feast, many people from throughout the Roman Empire were gathered in Jerusalem on this day. When the people in Jerusalem heard the sound, they came together and heard their own languages being spoken by the Apostles (Acts 2:5-6). The people were amazed, knowing that some of those speaking were Galileans, and not men who would normally speak many different languages. They wondered what this meant, and some even thought the Apostles were drunk (Acts 2:7-13).

Peter, hearing these remarks, stood up and addressed the crowd. He preached to the people regarding the Old Testament prophecies about the coming of the Holy Spirit. He spoke about Jesus Christ and His death and glorious Resurrection. Great conviction fell upon the people, and they asked the Apostles, "What shall we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38-39).

The Bible records that on that day about three thousand were baptized. Following, the book of Acts states that the newly baptized continued daily to hear the teaching of the Apostles, as the early Christians met together for fellowship, the breaking of bread, and for prayer. Many wonderful signs and miracles were done through the Apostles, and the Lord added to the Church daily those who were being saved (Acts 2:42-47).

ICON OF THE SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

The icon of the Feast of Pentecost is known as "The Descent of the Holy Spirit". It is an icon of bold colors of red and gold signifying that this is a great
event. The movement of the icon is from the top to the bottom. At the top of the icon is a semicircle with rays coming from it. The rays are pointing toward the Apostles, and the tongues of fire are seen descending upon each one of them signifying the descent of the Holy Spirit.

The building in the background of the icon represents the upper room where the Disciples of Christ gathered after the Ascension. The Apostles are shown seated in a semicircle which shows the unity of the Church. Included in the group of the Apostles is Saint Paul, who, though not present with the others on the day of Pentecost, became an Apostle of the Church and the greatest missionary. Also included are the four Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, holding books of the Gospel, while the other Apostles are holding scrolls that represent the teaching authority given to them by Christ.

In the center of the icon below the Apostles, a royal figure is seen against a dark background. This is a symbolic figure, Cosmos, representing the people of the world living in darkness and sin, and involved in pagan worship. However, the figure carries in his hands a cloth containing scrolls which represent the teaching of the Apostles. The tradition of the Church holds that the Apostles carried the message of the Gospel to all parts of the world.

In the icon of Pentecost we see the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, sent down upon the Apostles who will teach the nations and baptize them in the name of the Holy Trinity. Here we see that the Church is brought together and sustained in unity through the presence and work of the Holy Spirit, that the Spirit guides the Church in the missionary endeavor throughout the world, and that the Spirit nurtures the Body of Christ, the Church, in truth and love.

CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF PENTECOST
This great Feast of the Church is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom on the Sunday that is the fiftieth day after the celebration of Pascha. The Liturgy is conducted on the day of the Feast, and is preceded the evening before by a Great Vespers service and on the morning of the Feast by the Matins service. On the day of the Feast a Vespers service is conducted that includes the kneeling prayers.

These prayers mark the beginning of the practice of kneeling during the Liturgy at the time when the holy gifts of bread and wine are consecrated as the body and blood of Christ. The practice of kneeling has been suspended during the Paschal season. On the Monday following the Feast, the Divine Liturgy is conducted in commemoration of the All-holy and Life-creating and All-powerful Spirit, Who is God, and One of the Trinity, and of one honor and one essence and one glory with the Father and the Son.

PRAYER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, present in all places and filling all things, treasury of good things and giver of life: come; take Your abode in us; cleanse us of every stain, and save our souls, O Good one.

HYMNS FOR THE FEAST
Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) (Pl. 4th Mode)
Blessed are You, O Christ our God. You made the fishermen all-wise, by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them You drew the world into Your net. O Lover of mankind, glory to You.

Kontakion (Pl. 4th Mode)
When the Most High God came down and confused the tongues, He divided the nations. When He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity. And with one voice we glorify the all-holy Spirit.

OTHER RESOURCES FOR CELEBRATING PASCHA AND THE PENTECOSTARION
ARCHDIOCESAN WEBSITE
In addition to the summaries of the Sundays of Pascha, the Archdiocesan website also includes articles, prayers, service texts, homilies, messages, encyclicals, audio, photo galleries from around the Archdiocese, and videos.

Visit goarch.org/pentecostarion to see more.

AGES INITIATIVES
AGES Initiatives Digital Chand Stand supplies most of the texts for the Divine Services in our parish. It also contains a large library of musical scores for the hymns of those services (and many more, besides) to be sung both in Church and at home.

Congratulations to our Graduates!

Maximillian Hauffe

Son of Kurt & Svetlana Hauffe, Max graduated Hemlock High School, class of 2021, with High Honors and a 4.1 GPA, plus a 4.0 GPA at Delta College (dual-enrollment). Max is one of Hemlock High School's Top Ten Students, a member of the National Honor Society, a Chief Science Officer Representative, a USTA tennis player and was the captain of the varsity tennis team. He completed the 2020 tennis season undefeated in 1st singles position and was First Team All Conference in the district. During his high school, Maximilian was involved with high school Robotics and was also a FRC World Championship competitor. He has been accepted and committed to the University of Michigan Engineering School. He plans to major in computer science engineering and minor in business. Currently he is working as a Tennis Instructor at the Saginaw Athletic Club as he awaits the start of his freshman year in the fall.

Vasili Katsiouras

Son of Athanasios & Katerina Katsiouras, Vasili graduated Heritage High School, class of 2021. While in school, Vasili was on the wrestling team and on the yearbook committee. He enjoys working with his hands and loved his woodshop and welding classes. Vasili likes riding his longboard and makings things out of wood. He is planning to attend Delta College to study welding.

Austin Nichols-Economous

Austin Nichols-Economous has always been passionate about Science, Biology, Anatomy, and Medicine since he was young, reading medical reference books as a hobby in middle school. He has earned his Associates in Science, Major in Biomedical, Cellular, and Molecular Biology, and is now studying Forensic Pathology at Central Michigan University. He has written several educational papers on Covid, Vaccines, and pathogens to help stop misinformation. His latest paper titled “The Covid-19 Virus: Why You Should Get the Vaccine and What the Virus Does”, was requested by a Political Activist in Greece to be distributed to encourage citizens to become vaccinated. Even with his busy schedule of summer classes he is still managing to come home on the weekends to help with his mother’s recovery.

Alexandros Max Tsiros

Alex graduated from Western Michigan University with a Bachelor’s of Business Administration with a 3.5 GPA. He has already started working on his Master’s of Business Administration in Accounting and will graduate with his Master’s degree from Western next April, with his sights focused on becoming a Certified Public Accountant. Onwards to bigger and better things, Alex!

Dr. Anthony J. Siradakis

Anthony officially graduated on May 22nd, 2021 from the prestigious William & Mary College in Williamsburg, Virginia, with honors and his PH.D in Higher Education Administration, Endowment Management & Finance. Upon completion of his PH.D Anthony was awarded a full scholarship for his MBA in Corporate Finance, completed in 2 years, at William & Mary, which he anticipates completing in October, 2021.
Children’s Corner

WORD FIND

Can you find these words in the jumble?

ARSENIOS
ATHOS
EVIL
FRIEND
HEARTS
PAISIOS
SAINT
THOUGHTS

WORD FIND

AXIXWXQIKLGZLPTJ
GRUTPKXVISPYANM
YZSXFNKIZJRGIIF
VDBEETHoughtSAN
YNJCWRHUEWISC
GLNACIERAHMYOYN
GKPGXBOFGCYASWN
EMGLMKBSPHDLVA
ENNFGSSTRAEHUGW
TUMRSPSXETHNIEE
MEKIOCJSKMRLOB
RFHEVILMBAFXN
SNTHHUSBFBNBLOI
DAUDGESMJSNOQV
DWDZSFIGUPLZHEV

What’s in an Icon?

Here is an icon of Saint Paisios. He’s the one kneeling. The other saint is Saint Arsenios. Saint Arsenios baptized him when he was a baby!

Now they are both saints in heaven!

We celebrate St. Paisios on Monday, July 12th. He reposed on this date in 1994, and was canonized in 2015.
Metropolis of Detroit
Greek Orthodox Summer Camp
Register Campers and Staff at GOMDSC.ORG

Campers Entering Grade 12/First Year of College
Week 0 June 27 - July 3

Campers entering Grades 3-11
Week 1 July 4 - July 10
Week 2 July 11 - July 17
Week 3 July 18 - July 24
Week 4 July 25 - July 31
Week 5 August 1 - August 7

Ages 19-35
Young Adult September 3 - September 6

MDSC

We are moving forward with hope and a mission to gather safely in Rose City for the 2021 camp season, but preparing a backup plan should our circumstances change.